

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the notice that claims 20-27 are allowed and that claims 8, 9, 12, 13 and 16 would be allowed if written in independent form. New claims 34-38 are claims 8, 9, 12, 13 and 16 written in independent form. Several of the new claims also changed language “further comprises operable coupling” to “is operably coupled”. Accordingly, these claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 7, 10, 11, 14 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over So in view of Watts in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,826,093 (Assouad). In the “Response to Arguments” section, the Examiner alleges that the “operating rate” language is vague and is therefore interpreted quite broadly. Applicants respectfully submit that in the context of the claim and in view of the Specification, it is clear that the operating rate refers to, for example, an internal bus operating rate of the CPU (see page 7 and elsewhere of Specification). However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended the claims indicating that the CPU and Northbridge on the same substrate use the internal bus on the same substrate and the internal bus employs a native protocol to the CPU. (See for example, page 7 and elsewhere of Specification). Such an integrated structure is not taught or suggested by the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the remaining claims are also in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /Christopher J. Reckamp/
Christopher J. Reckamp
Registration No. 34,414

Vedder Price P.C.
222 N. LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60601
PHONE: (312) 609-7599
FAX: (312) 609-5005